



Mary Ward Catholic School

May 2025

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/maryward/>

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221

Principal's Message

In May, we are surrounded by the beauty of dormant plants beginning to grow, new seedlings sprouting from the ground, and vibrant, colorful flowers blooming in gardens. It is no surprise that May is also the month devoted to Mary, the mother of Jesus. She serves as a role model to all of us through her purity, love for her Son, and devotion to God's will. Throughout May, we will honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This month, we also celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11th. We extend heartfelt wishes to all Mothers, Step Mothers, Grandmothers, God Mothers, and anyone who fulfills this cherished role. Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for all that you do. May God bless you abundantly.

God, today we lift up all the prayers we hold in our hearts to you. Help us to be patient in our prayers, to remember that you hear each one and will respond in the way you see best.

We pray that all mothers be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish News

Mary Ward Family Mass

Join us for our monthly mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. Each month, two classes and our Faith In Action Team are invited to mass to deepen our faith and strengthen our triad connection - school, parish and home.



This month, Mrs. Bomberry, Mrs. Kostyk and Mrs. Sommise's classes and our FIAT team are hosting the mass on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

A reminder that attending mass is a fundamental aspect of Catholic life and as Catholics, we are asked to attend mass weekly and on holidays.

Mother Mary Procession

**Our Lady of the
Scapular**
Roman Catholic Church

Mother Mary Procession

Tuesday May 13, 2025

 **@5:30pm**
Mass follows **@7:00pm**

Everyone Is Welcome!
Especially children...
"Let the children come to me"

Bring flowers from your gardens. Bring personal items to be blessed!
In coordination with all Our Lady of the Scapular church ministries, our 6 schools, other parishes, and charismatic groups.

6557 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls, ON L2J 1B2



Kingdom Come Summer Camp



Confirmation

On Wednesday, April 30th, Mary Ward's Grade 8 students gathered at Our Lady of Scapular Church to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. These students made the heartfelt decision to renew their baptismal promises and deepen their relationship with God. They were blessed with this beautiful sacrament, receiving the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

A special thank you to Bishop Bergie, Father Greg, and Father Ronnie for leading this meaningful celebration. With the unwavering support of their teachers, sponsors, parents, family members, and parish community, these students will continue to grow in their Catholic faith journey.

Graduation - Save the Date!

We are thrilled to announce that our Grade 8 Graduation will take place on **Thursday, June 19, 2025**. This special event will be held at the beautiful **Double Tree Resort and Spa**, where students and their families will come together for a memorable Graduate Blessing and Award Ceremony.

Following the ceremony, our graduates will be treated to a delicious dinner and an exciting **dance** to celebrate their achievements. We look forward to honoring all of your hard work and accomplishments in a joyous and festive atmosphere.

Let's make this a night to remember!

Mary Ward Catholic Education and Mental Health Week

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools are excited to celebrate Catholic Education Week (CEW) with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” and Mental Health Week (MHW) with the theme “Unmasking Mental Health” from Monday, May 5, 2025 to Friday, May 9, 2025. This week provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health and wellness.

Throughout the week, we will explore five inspiring sub-themes:

1. Honouring Human Dignity
2. Caring for Creation
3. Responding to the Poverties in Our World
4. Serving in Solidarity
5. Living as Peacemakers

Mary Ward students and staff will engage in a variety of enriching activities within our school community and classrooms to celebrate Catholic Education. These activities include morning liturgies, masses, family yoga day, an art showcase, rosary circle, and much more!

Join us in celebrating this meaningful week as we come together to reflect, learn, and grow.

Stretch & Smile Yoga



Art Gallery Walk



EQAO

Between May 21st - May 30th, your child will be taking part in the provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1–3) or Junior Division (Grades 4–6). These assessments, developed by Ontario teachers and assessment experts, are administered to all Grade 3 and Grade 6 students in Ontario's publicly funded school system by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO).

Each assessment includes a language and mathematics component, along with a voluntary student questionnaire. During the assessment, students will complete four language sessions and four mathematics stages that each take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Each session or stage will be completed in one continuous sitting, and the sessions and stages may be administered throughout the administration dates.

Students will have the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions on the assessment and its platform through EQAO's online sample test.

The EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum* for reading, writing and mathematics, which are what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will be encouraged to do their best and show what they know.

In the fall, EQAO will share individual reports for all our students. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of their achievement in relation to Ontario's provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from B- to B+. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that they will be ready for the next grade. The results of the assessment do not affect your child's grades or report card in any way.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample test, visit EQAO's website, www.eqao.com.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Family Food Truck event - SAVE THE DATE!

Get ready for an unforgettable evening! On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, from **4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**, we are hosting a **Family Food Truck Event** packed with fun and excitement!

Indulge in delicious food from a variety of food trucks, try your luck with **raffle prizes**, and enjoy **games** and activities for all ages. It's going to be a fantastic time for everyone!

Stay tuned for more details on prize collection and ticket purchases. We can't wait to see you there!

Looking ahead - 2025/2026

Thank you to everyone who submitted friend requests throughout April. We appreciate your input and will do our best to accommodate these requests. However, we are no longer accepting additional requests at this time.

During the month of May, our dedicated staff will be meeting to discuss and create student groupings for the next school year. Our goal is to place students in environments where they can thrive and be most successful. This process involves a great deal of time and effort from classroom teachers, resource teachers, and the principal.

We carefully consider a variety of factors when establishing classes, including:

- Ability
- Individual needs
- Behaviour
- Work habits
- Age
- Learning styles
- Class size
- Gender balance

Creating a successful learning environment for all students is our top priority.

How Can Parents Help?

- **Talk positively** to your child about the upcoming school year.
- **Discuss relationship building** and the excitement of making new friendships if your child is placed with a different group of students.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to ensure the best possible learning experience for all our students.

Catch the Spirit Award - Congratulations Amelia Santini

We are delighted to announce the Niagara Catholic "Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence," created to honor outstanding representatives of leadership within our student population. This award reflects our commitment to "nurture souls and build minds" throughout Niagara Catholic.

We are thrilled to recognize Amelia as a shining example of this award's criteria, which include:

- Parish Involvement
- Catholic Leadership
- Family Commitment
- Positive School Relationships and Involvement
- Academic Excellence



Amelia not only meets these criteria but goes above and beyond in many other areas as well.

Congratulations, Amelia! We are incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments. Thank you for your exceptional contributions to the Tiger community. Your dedication and spirit inspire us all!

Four Brothers Cucina Family Engagement Night

On **Thursday, May 15, 2025**, Mary Ward families are warmly invited to dine out at **Four Brothers Cucina**, located at **5283 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls**. This special event is hosted by the generous **Marinelli family**, who have graciously donated all proceeds from their cannoli fundraiser back to our school.

All funds that were raised will go towards purchasing additional technologies for Mary Ward, enhancing our students' learning experiences.

Let's come together as a community to show our support and appreciation for the Marinelli family.

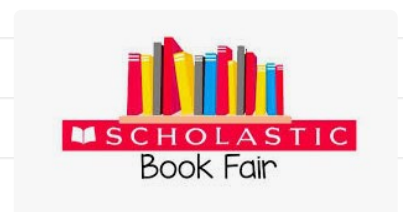
Enjoy a delicious meal, connect with fellow families, and contribute to a great cause.

Thank you, Marinelli family, for hosting this wonderful event. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Scholastic Book Fair

We want to extend a great big thank you to all the Mary Ward families for your incredible support of our Scholastic Book Fair.

Thanks to your overwhelming enthusiasm and participation, we were able to purchase **\$3,500 worth of new books** for our school



library! Your contributions have made a significant impact, enriching our library and fostering a love of reading among our students.

Once again, thank you for making our book fair a huge success. We couldn't have done it without you

Jump Rope For Heart

Get ready for an exciting and heart-healthy day! On Friday, May 16, Mary Ward Catholic School will be participating in our Jump Rope For Heart Activity Day. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of Heart Healthy Activities outside, promoting fitness and fun.

To ensure everyone has a great time, students are encouraged to wear proper footwear and athletic clothing. Our enthusiastic Student Council will visit each class to discuss this important fundraiser and distribute various prizes generously donated by the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Our fundraising goal for this year is to raise a minimum of \$500, which will go directly to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Your support is crucial in helping us achieve this goal.

Please click the link below to make a donation. Thank you for your generosity and support!

<https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/86796>

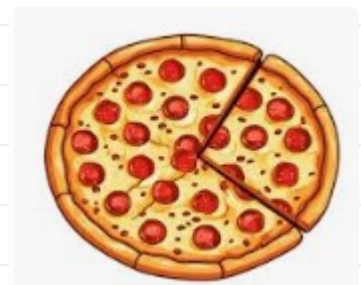
Alternate Lunch Days/Milk Program

Alternate lunch days and the milk program will continue in May!

Milk will be available on every Tuesday and Thursday.

There will be 1 alternate lunch day in May

☒ May 27 - Pizza Day from Carmine's Pizzeria



You can participate and place your orders using School Cash Online.

Yearbook Orders - Last Call!

As the 2024-2025 school year progresses, the memories we create will be celebrated and cherished in the Mary Ward Catholic School yearbook. This wonderful keepsake is available for all students to pre-order and purchase via School Cash Online.

The yearbooks will be completed and delivered during the first week of school in September 2025 to each student who has pre-ordered and purchased one. The cost of the yearbook is \$20.00.

Please ensure all yearbook orders and payments are submitted by Friday, May 23, 2025.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to capture and remember the special moments of the school year!

Eco-School News

Eco-School Ground Greening Project

A partnership between the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has been formed to beautify our school grounds! On **Tuesday, May 20th** the **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority** along with our Mary Ward Eco-Team will work together to beautify our front garden beds and plant some trees on the school property. The rain date for this event is set to Friday, May 23rd! The Niagara Conservation Authority has graciously donated all plants, trees, and mulch to our school! We look forward to working with them in the future!

Walk or Roll to School Wednesdays

Active and Sustainable School Travel emphasizes the importance of low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school. Increased commitment to active and sustainable modes of transportation to help reduce the number of vehicles on the road and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) in the air. Supporting Active and Sustainable School Travel leads to improved physical and mental health, a healthier environment, and safer streets. Every Wednesday, during the month of May, we encourage all Mary Ward students to WALK, BIKE, or BUS to school. With everyone's participation, we can reduce the danger of traffic and toxic emissions near our school and this will also give you an opportunity for physical activity that can help students arrive alert and ready to learn in the morning. Families are encouraged to leave the car at home and choose an active trip to school. If you ride a bus, take part by walking to your bus stop. If you must travel by car, consider asking your parents to park a few blocks away so you can walk part of the trip. Walking or rolling to school is a great way to be kind to the environment and our bodies and have fun!! We hope you'll join us by walking, biking or bussing to school every Wednesday in May.

Outdoor Classroom Day

It's time to get outside Mary Ward! Canada is known for outdoor pursuits and having one of the best backyards in the world. However, the reality is we are spending less and less time outside, which is taking a toll on our health and well-being. Outdoor Classroom Day is a reminder of the power of time outdoors. It's an invitation for schools to extend the classroom beyond four walls and a desk and engage with school grounds and natural areas. Outdoor Classroom Day will be held on May 23rd. It is a one-day event that promotes the significance of outdoor activity within three broad themes: Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, health and wellbeing, and environmental and climate change education.

Spirit Wear Wednesdays

Wednesday's are spirit wear days at Mary Ward Catholic School. Check out the new Navy Jogger for students in Kinder thru Grade 3 and swag for Mom and Dad.

All orders will be delivered to Mary Ward. Please remember to note your child's name and classroom teacher on the order.

To order spirit wear please go to Maddalena's website <https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/>

May Is Speech & Hearing Month

Throughout the day you talk to family, friends, and colleagues. You use your hearing and speech all the time. You probably take them for granted. Imagine not being able to communicate simple thoughts like "Thank you" or "Tell me a story." For many Canadians with speech and language disorders, this is reality. For them, words don't come easily. But when is the last time you really thought about it? May is Speech and Hearing Month, the perfect time to communicate some important information about hearing and speech. One in 10 Canadians has a hearing, speech, or language problem, a condition that makes it difficult to communicate with others. Anyone, of any age, can have or develop an impairment of the ability to hear, speak, or understand effectively. At any time, illness or accidental injury can impair your ability to hear and talk. Treatment to eliminate or minimize communication problems is available. Speech, language, and hearing disorders are treatable and early detection is a major contributor to speedier recoveries, shortened treatment periods, and reduced costs for individuals and society alike. Early detection of communication disorders is vital! If you suspect a hearing, speech, or language problem, contact a communication specialist such as a Speech-Language Pathologist, Communication Disorders Assistants or Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A listing of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists is available by contacting the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) at 1-800-993-9459 or visit www.caslpo.com. To learn more about the importance of early detection and intervention of communication disorders, and the role of speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communicative disorders assistants visit www.asha.org/public, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) www.maymonth.ca or <https://identifythesigns.org>.

Communication is...



**Communication transcends speech;
it's the essence of human connection
and vital to our everyday lives.**

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists have the education and training to assess, diagnose, and treat communication disorders across the lifespan.

**Make a speech-language
pathologist or audiologist a part
of your healthcare team today.**



sac-oac.ca

Niagara Region Public Health

Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.

A yearly eye exam is FREE – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see ANY of these signs:

- Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes
- One eye that turns out or in
- Blinking often
- Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
- Turning or tilting the head to the side often
- Reporting blurry or double vision
- Covering or closing one eye
- Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

Welcome to Kindergarten

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Public Health works in partnership with teachers, support staff, students, and parents to build a healthier school community.

Check out our [School Health webpage](#) for some important links and supports:

- [Childhood illnesses and diseases of public health significance](#)
- [Non-reportable illnesses and exclusion periods](#)
- [Dental screening](#)
- [School-aged vaccines](#)

Parents and legal guardians of junior and senior kindergarten registrants and students new to Ontario are asked to report their vaccinations to [Public Health](#).

Head Lice

Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

NEW Quit Vaping Program for Youth

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is excited to launch [Youth-Vaping, Substance use, and Technology \(VAST\)](#). Youth-VAST is a program for youth in Ontario who are using vaping, substances, or feel like technology is taking up too much of their time. This program brings

together existing and new resources across CAMH to deliver virtual services directly to youth and their family.

- Program offered for youth ages 12-21 years.
- Appointments are offered virtually for youth all over Ontario
- Youth will be assigned a care coordinator to create a customized treatment plan
- Individuals can self-refer directly into this program, no physician referral required.

To refer, visit [Youth-VAST](#) to book an appointment. For more information you can email youth.vast@camh.ca.

May is Rabies Awareness Month

During Spring, wildlife activity increases and so does the potential for rabies exposures. Rabies is a serious and fatal disease that affects the brain and spinal cord of mammals, including humans. To prevent rabies, avoid any contact with wild animals, especially those that appear sick. Although they may seem cute, do not feed wild animals and most importantly, make sure to have your pets vaccinated.

For more information visit

https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/disease-prevent/rabies.aspx



Mr. A. Cardamone

Principal

